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ABSTRACT

The Partners Program operates through a partnership of the Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System, the Denver Public Schools, and the Colorado Minority Engineering Association to guide minority high school students into career tracks that include a college option. Denver is a particularly suitable location for the Partners Program in that the area has a large concentration of Hispanic, Black, and American Indian students; has one of the most serious minority dropout rates in Colorado; and can offer a variety of college programs locally through the Community College of Denver (CCD). The organization and implementation of the Partners Program involved the formation of an advisory board, the development of procedures manuals, the selection of Partners Advisors at four participating high schools, the selection of 14 seniors to participate in the project, and the provision of orientation and support to the students' families. The Partners students participated in several activities, including campus visits to local community colleges, meetings with college counselors regarding financial aid, presentations by industry representatives, and regular meetings with their advisors. In cooperation with the CCD, all students were offered an intensive college preparation program during the summer prior to their freshman year. (ALB)

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MID-TERM REPORT ON PARTNERS PROGRAM

A Presentation by:

Jim L. Raughton
Bob Goetz
Mike Garcia
Ed Martinez
and
William Richards

Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the American Association
of Community and Junior Colleges (69th, Washington, DC, March 29-
April 1, 1989).

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P A R T N E R S

A PARTNERSHIP AMONG THE COLORADO MINORITY ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION,
THE COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM,
AND THE DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF
MINORITY STUDENTS ENTERING COLLEGE

Introduction

The Partners Program provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate the many ways in which partnerships of community colleges, high schools and business leaders can benefit students. The Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System (CCCOES) combines the governance of eleven State System community colleges (five within the Denver metro area) with its role in administration of vocational education as the designated sole state agency for vocational education. In addition, the CCCOES distributes funds and approves programs at seven area vocational schools and four locally governed community colleges. This considerable breadth of authority makes the CCCOES a key player in the economic development of Colorado and gives it the broad perspective and leverage to create strong partnerships among community colleges, high schools and the business community.

While many organizations have attempted to increase the number of minority students electing to enter college through the Community College System, the Partners Program has created a partnership of three organizations--the Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System (CCCOES), the Denver Public Schools (DPS) and the Colorado Minority Engineering Association (CMEA)--which, in its first year of operation, has established a model program that builds upon the ability of these organizations to identify and successfully mentor minority students in career tracks that include a college option.

Given the role of the CCCOES and the success of the CMEA in developing support of the business leaders for a select group of students, the partnership between these groups has captured the experience of both in expanding the college opportunity to students who previously have not seen college as a part of their future; thereby increasing the likelihood that at-risk students are introduced to valid college options through the Community College System.

The Denver area has afforded a significant opportunity to pilot this program because of the large concentration of Hispanic, Black, and American Indian students. Denver also endures one of the most serious high school dropout rates for minority students in Colorado (estimates indicate the rate to be as high as 50 percent). It is the central presumption of this proposal that a variety of programs are available through the Denver metropolitan area's community colleges and will assure students meaningful options in planning and preparing for their careers. The Partners Program is designed to identify the many opportunities and make access to those programs meaningful to the selected students.

Implementation

In order to assure the creation of a climate by which the Keep America Working Project can be maintained, extended and enhanced beyond the initial funding of \$25,000.00, several organizational steps had to be undertaken:

1. An advisory team has been formed to guide the development of the Project; it is composed of the following members:

- Mr. Mike Garcia, Executive Director of the CMEA
- Mr. Robert Goetz, Department of High School Education, DPS Central Administration
- Mr. Ed Martinez, Counselor, Community College of Denver
- Mr. Jim Raughton, Associate Vice President for CCCOES
- Dr. Bill Richards, Dean of Learning Development Center, Community College of Denver

This group was charged with the responsibility of implementing the program at the selected high schools and appropriate feeder middle schools.

2. In addition to the creation of the advisory team, the CMEA selected Dr. Jerry Wartgow, President of the CCCOES, to their CMEA Board of Directors. This Board is charged with overall policy guidance for the CMEA.

An invitation has been extended to the Sears Organization to suggest a representative for the Industry Advisory Board, which represents 18 of the major industries and businesses which support CMEA.

3. Procedures and manuals (70 pages) have been developed in cooperation with CMEA based upon their successful Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program. It is our intent to utilize these newly developed procedures as models when presenting this program to other school districts and community colleges.

4. Partners Advisors have been selected at each participating school; they include:

- West High School, Mr. Victor Mendez
- Manual High School, Mr. Joe Rabon
- Cole Middle School, Ms. Brenda Ward
- Baker Middle School, Mr. Richard Graw

5. Each advisor has worked with the school administration and counseling staff to identify students who are interested in the Partners Program. Emphasis was placed on seniors during the first year to assure support to graduating seniors in the class of 1988-89 school year. Initially, 45 seniors and

juniors were identified. After screening and interviews by the advisory committee, 14 seniors were selected--7 from Manual High School and 7 from West High School.

6. The selected students have been involved in a series of activities including:
 - Campus visits to selected community colleges
 - Introduction to the Summer Bridge Program at the Community College of Denver
 - Meetings with college counselors regarding the support provided by the Federal Financial Aid Package
 - Presentations by representatives from industry
 - Regular meetings with their high school Partners Advisors to identify any barriers to their enrolling in a community college
7. In order to provide orientation and support for the Partners' families, the Continuing Education Department of Community College of Denver, in cooperation with the Learning Development Center, has established a program of home support for the students. The program provides an orientation for the students' families on the demands being placed on the students as well as the need for study time and an appropriate study location. In addition to the orientation, programs are offered to the parents for their return to school on a credit or a non-credit basis.

Evidence of Leveraging of the Keep America Working Program

1. Given the limitation on funding for Partners scholarships, the purposes of the Partners programs have been expanded to provide counseling and support for student partners to include assistance in financial aid application; applications to work-study programs on the community college campuses; and, where appropriate, support in application to Colorado scholarships and Presidential scholarships. It is anticipated that the Partners system of support in mentoring and advising the student partners can be sustained utilizing improved access to existing assistance programs.
2. The relationship established with CMEA under the Keep America Working Program in Denver has been expanded to rural Colorado in a pilot MESA/Partners program to support minority students who live in Trinidad, Colorado. This program is intended to provide access to a college education through Trinidad State Junior College.
3. Denver Public Schools, in cooperation with the Community College of Denver, has extended the program by providing advising days, during which students from every high school in the

District are encouraged to visit the Community College of Denver. In the first year of operation, approximately 200 students visited the campus.

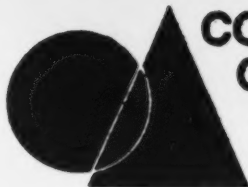
4. In cooperation with the Community College of Denver, all Partners students are offered an intensive college preparation program during eight weeks of the summer prior to their freshman year. The program consists of an assessment program, academic support services, sampling of college courses, and up to six semester hours of college credit.

The Summer Bridge Program does not require that students attend the Community College of Denver after completion. The courses taken during the program are transferable, at the same level of credit, to all other community colleges within the State of Colorado.

JLR/as

Attachments:

- Fact Sheet, "Opportunities for Colorado"
- Description of Partners Program
- Application Form for Partners Program
- Article for Students



COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

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FACT SHEET

"OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLORADO"

"In the Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System, instructors practice what they teach, students learn to be good citizens and productive employees and the community benefits."

—Jerome F. Wartgow, President

WHAT IS IT?

- Eleven state system community colleges.
- Four local district community colleges.
- Seven area vocational schools.
- One four-year college with responsibility as an area vocational school and authorization to grant two-year degrees.
- More than 150 school districts offering high school vocational education programs.
- Approval and regulation of 135 proprietary vocational schools and training programs.

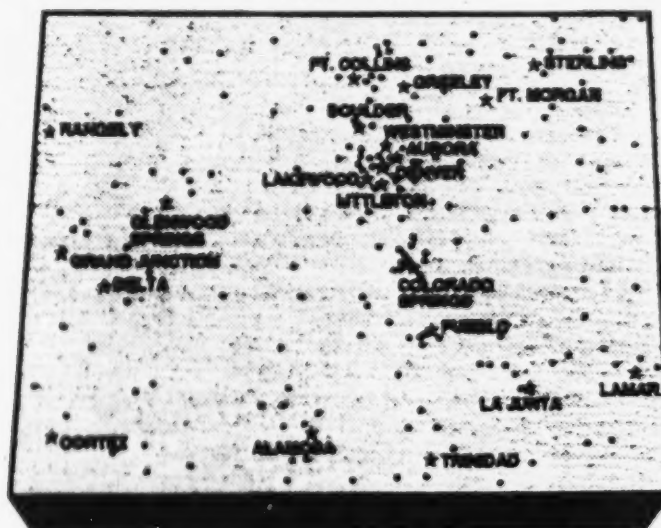
WHAT ARE ITS GOALS?

- To develop Colorado's human resource potential.
- To contribute to Colorado's economic growth and vitality.

WHERE IS IT?

- The Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System offers close-to-home opportunities for a quality education throughout the state.

System Map



Key: Stars—Postsecondary Locations Dots—Secondary Vocational Education

SYSTEM ENROLLMENTS:

- The System serves more than 90,000 students each year. Headcount enrollment in courses for credit during the 1987-1988 academic year was as follows:

Community Colleges	55,000
Area Vocational Schools	7,400
High School Vocational Programs	44,000
Proprietary Vocational Schools	<u>30,000</u>
TOTAL	136,400

HOW IS THE SYSTEM FUNDED?*

State General Funds	
State System Community Colleges	\$52,052,000
Local District Community Colleges	12,621,000
Colorado Vocational Act	14,980,000
Area Vocational Schools	9,708,000
Customized Training	721,000
Occupational Education Administration	583,000
Federal Funds	
Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act	9,940,000
Job Training Partnership Act	760,000
Small Business Administration	700,000
Cash Funds	
Tuition	21,700,000
Proprietary Vocational Schools	<u>259,000</u>
TOTAL	\$124,024,000

*1988-1989

WHO MANAGES THE SYSTEM?

- The State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education, established by the Legislature in 1967, sets policy and implements it through the Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System.
- Members of the SBCCOE:
 - Jane S. Quimby, Chair, Grand Junction
 - Anita L. Sanchez, Vice Chair, Boulder
 - Roll F. Anderson, Pueblo
 - Jay L. Fox, Lakewood
 - Reuben Gutierrez, Trinidad
 - Julianne F. Haefell, Greeley
 - Lawrence E. Hamilton, Denver
 - H. Clay Whitlow, Denver
 - Raymond E. Wilder, Colorado Springs
 - Helen Kleysteuber, Faculty Member, Denver
 - Judy Baxter, Student Member, Aurora
- System Executive Staff:
 - Jerome F. Wartgow, President
 - Dorothy A. Horrell, Vice President for Educational Services
 - Robert Smith, Vice President for Administration
 - Rich Allen, Associate Vice President for Budget & Finance
 - Judy Fernandez, Director of Western Slope Operations
 - Carole Johnson, Associate Vice President for Planning, Research & Evaluation
 - Patsy Krechel, Public Information Specialist
 - Mary Ellen McEldowney, Director of Affirmative Action & Special Projects
 - Bill Newblom, Director of Western Slope Operations
 - Jim Raughton, Associate Vice President for Field Operations
 - Ed Ray, Associate Vice President for Instructional Services
 - Robert Turner, Director of Business, Industry & Community Relations
 - Carol Van Lew, System-Policy Specialist
 - Don Williamson, Associate Vice President for Data Processing

PARTNERS

A consortium among:

- Colorado Community Colleges and Occupational Education System (CCCOES);
- Colorado Minority Engineers Association (CMEA); and
- Denver Public Schools (DPS).

Students who are truly challenged can deliver!

Partners is a program designed to identify minority students who can enter college through the State System of Community Colleges and Occupational Education can succeed at careers that require education beyond a high school diploma.

Students who join the Partners Program will be provided an opportunity to earn a tuition scholarship at a State System community college through accumulation of points based on:

- Grades;
- Extracurricular activities;
- Course work selection;
- Participation in ACT, SAT testing;
- Participation in Partners activities;
- Participation in tutoring.

The student will have a unique opportunity to participate in experiences that will encourage him or her to stay in school and select a career that requires education beyond high school. The activities will include:

1. Campus visits to several community colleges;
2. Job site visits with major employers;
3. Presentations and support provided by college counselors;
4. Free tutoring for 11th and 12th grade students at the Community College of Denver, Learning Development Center;
5. Speakers from industries and colleges.

Students will be identified in middle schools (7th grade) as partners and will be provided in-school monitoring by a selected teacher in their middle school.

Curricular counseling and career counseling will be provided each year as the student/partner progresses through middle school and high school.

APPLICATION FORM FOR PARTNERS PROGRAM

Name of Student: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Address: _____
Street Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Number: _____

	<u>Class</u>	<u>Room</u>
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____

Grade Point Average: _____ (See Report Card)

Do you have an interest in attend a Colorado community college?

Yes _____ No _____

Signature

NOTE: Please return this form to your teacher.

LOOKING BEYOND THE GUIDEBOOKS FOR A SCHOOL AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

The Community College Option

Friends ask you, "What's next?" "What are you going to do with your life?" "Where will you be going to school?" These are the questions that mix with the excitement of graduation and are often the source of senior anxiety.

Ideally, the answers to these questions are determined long before the senior year in high school. Many decisions made in the 7th grade can help to define the options a student has available in the 12th grade.

Too often, seniors complete high school without clear options for the future. They feel they don't need to know in high school exactly what they are going to be doing with the rest of their lives. Our society and the very nature of work is changing so rapidly that you may not be aware of all the options that will be presented to you during your career. Many jobs that were common ten years ago do not exist today due to the rapid advances in technology.

At the same time, the very nature of work in all areas has dramatically changed to include new technologies. Today, more than ever, graduates from high school must be prepared to engage in a lifelong process of education focused on the opportunities that can be developed through their willingness to train and retrain to meet the demands of a changing work place.

Recent trends show that more graduates are selecting education beyond high school. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that 28 percent of the workers in 1972 had at least one year of college. In 1986, that figure had climbed to 41 percent. It is clear that, through the year 2000, the fastest growing careers require some training beyond high school.

The Colorado Community Colleges offer a variety of high-quality programs that provide entry to excellent careers. Some careers can be started after completing certificate courses at the community college and prior to securing Associate of Art, Associate of Science, or Associate of Applied Science Degrees. Other opportunities will present themselves as a student completes full two-year programs. Transfer options exist to every four-year college and university within the state through appropriate selection of courses. Guaranteed transfer can occur to programs and careers of all types which require a four-year degree. These advantages, combined with the fact that community colleges provide a wide range of scholarships and work study opportunities, reduce the already low tuition of approximately \$400 per semester.

All of these facts can make your head spin! Should you go to college or not? Can you afford the cost? Are you ready for the changes that will confront you? The answer to these questions goes back to really knowing yourself and then choosing the path that creates the best option for you.

Increasingly in Colorado, that pathway is a community college. Students are taking advantage of the lower tuition and smaller classes as well as the convenience of starting college at an institution closer to their home that affords the guaranty of transfer to four-year colleges if that is desired at a later time.

You can obtain information about the opportunities available to you by calling the Admissions Office at the Community College nearest to you, or you can contact the Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System office at 620-4000 and ask for the Public Information Specialist. We will be pleased to answer your questions and to assist you in making an informed decision regarding your future after graduation.

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1/30/89